

I claim:

1. A method for establishing a connection from a user terminal to a network through a network access server, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a request from the user terminal to access the network with use of the network access server; and

 providing limited network access to the user terminal through the network access server, wherein providing said limited network access comprises providing network connectivity through said network access server between said user terminal
10 and one or more predetermined enterprise-authenticated hosts and not providing network connectivity through said network access server between said user terminal and network sites other than said one or more predetermined enterprise-authenticated hosts.

15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the user terminal comprises a wireless device and the network access server comprises a wireless LAN hotspot server.

 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the wireless device and the wireless LAN hotspot server communicate with use of an IEEE 802.11 standard protocol.

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 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said request from the user terminal comprises an identification of a given enterprise, and wherein said one or more

enterprise-authenticated hosts consists of one or more VPN gateways associated with said given enterprise.

5 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said user terminal has been pre-configured to automatically provide said identification of the given enterprise.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said request from the user terminal further comprises a fixed password, said fixed password uniquely associated with said given enterprise.

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7. The method of claim 6 wherein said user terminal has been pre-configured to automatically provide said identification of the given enterprise and said fixed password.

15 8. The method of claim 4 wherein said network access server is operated by a service provider, and wherein said service provider and said given enterprise have a pre-existing relationship.

20 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said pre-existing relationship comprises an agreement that said limited network access provided to said user terminal incurs a charge billed by said service provider to said given enterprise.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said network access server is operated by a service provider, wherein said service provider has a pre-existing relationship with each of one or more known enterprises, and wherein said one or more enterprise-authenticated hosts consists of one or more VPN gateways associated with each of
5 said one or more known enterprises.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein each of said pre-existing relationships comprises an agreement that said limited network access provided to said user terminal incurs a charge billed by said service provider to a corresponding one of said
10 one or more known enterprises.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of providing said limited network access comprises the steps of:

comparing a first IP address pair to a set of previously stored IP address pairs,
15 the first IP address pair comprising an IP address of said user terminal and an IP address of an intended destination to which access has been requested by said user terminal, and each IP address pair in the set of previously stored IP address pairs comprising the IP address of a user terminal connected to said network access server and an IP address of one of said one or more enterprise-authenticated hosts; and
20 providing network connectivity between said user terminal and said intended destination if and only if said first IP address pair matches one of said IP address pairs in said set of previously stored IP address pairs.

13. A network access server for establishing a connection from a user terminal to a network, the network access server comprising:

means for receiving a request from the user terminal to access the network
5 with use of the network access server; and

means for providing limited network access to the user terminal through the network access server, wherein providing said limited network access comprises providing network connectivity through said network access server between said user terminal and one or more predetermined enterprise-authenticated hosts and not
10 providing network connectivity through said network access server between said user terminal and network sites other than said one or more predetermined enterprise-authenticated hosts.

14. The network access server of claim 13 wherein the user terminal
15 comprises a wireless device and the network access server comprises a wireless LAN hotspot server.

15. The network access server of claim 14 wherein the wireless device and the wireless LAN hotspot server communicate with use of an IEEE 802.11 standard
20 protocol.

16. The network access server of claim 13 wherein said request from the user terminal comprises an identification of a given enterprise, and wherein said one or more enterprise-authenticated hosts consists of one or more VPN gateways associated with said given enterprise.

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17. The network access server of claim 16 wherein said user terminal has been pre-configured to automatically provide said identification of the given enterprise.

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18. The network access server of claim 16 wherein said request from the user terminal further comprises a fixed password, said fixed password uniquely associated with said given enterprise.

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19. The network access server of claim 18 wherein said user terminal has been pre-configured to automatically provide said identification of the given enterprise and said fixed password.

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20. The network access server of claim 16 wherein said network access server is operated by a service provider, and wherein said service provider and said given enterprise have a pre-existing relationship.

21. The network access server of claim 20 wherein said pre-existing relationship comprises an agreement that said limited network access provided to said user terminal incurs a charge billed by said service provider to said given enterprise.

5 22. The network access server of claim 13 wherein said network access server is operated by a service provider, wherein said service provider has a pre-existing relationship with each of one or more known enterprises, and wherein said one or more enterprise-authenticated hosts consists of one or more VPN gateways associated with each of said one or more known enterprises.

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23. The network access server of claim 22 wherein each of said pre-existing relationships comprises an agreement that said limited network access provided to said user terminal incurs a charge billed by said service provider to a corresponding one of said one or more known enterprises.

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24. The network access server of claim 13 wherein said step of providing said limited network access comprises the steps of:

 comparing a first IP address pair to a set of previously stored IP address pairs,
the first IP address pair comprising an IP address of said user terminal and an IP
20 address of an intended destination to which access has been requested by said user terminal, and each IP address pair in the set of previously stored IP address pairs

comprising the IP address of a user terminal connected to said network access server and an IP address of one of said one or more enterprise-authenticated hosts; and

providing network connectivity between said user terminal and said intended destination if and only if said first IP address pair matches one of said IP address pairs

5 in said set of previously stored IP address pairs.